

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE "EE"**(Mayor and City Councilmembers Salary)**

Current law provides for a Mayor and City Council member salary commission. Such commission is required to meet in every even-numbered year to make recommendations to the City Council concerning the compensation of the Mayor and City Council members. Compensation for the Mayor and City Council members is then set by ordinance after a duly noticed public hearing. Any such ordinance must be approved by at least five affirmative votes of the City Council. Current law does not limit the amount of such increase.

If passed by a majority of voters, this measure would eliminate the Mayor and City Council member salary commission, and require the City Council, in January of every odd-numbered year, to review the compensation of the Mayor and City Council members. The City Council, in establishing any increase to such compensation, would be limited to a five percent increase from their then-existing salary. Such increase would still have to be adopted by ordinance by no fewer than five affirmative votes.

If Measure "EE" is approved, there would be no direct fiscal impact to the City.

By: City Attorney
City of Riverside

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure "EE." If you desire a copy of the proposed Charter language, please call the City Clerk at 951-826-5557 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you or view the full text at www.riversideca.gov.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE "EE"

In order to avoid the debacle of 2002, we need to change the city's system for determining mayoral and City Council compensation. That year's council totally rejected the advice of the charter-required citizens Salary Commission which, after spending months studying the issue, determined that council members deserved no raises for what commissioners said was part-time public service. Council members responded by voting themselves 60 percent increases, an action that was widely criticized.

The current Charter Review Committee concluded that the charter should eliminate the Salary Commission, as several commissioners suggested, and accept the current level of council and mayor salaries. It also decided the charter should remain silent on the full-time versus part-time issue, leaving it to ward voters to decide if their representative was working long enough hours.

While elected officials understandably would rather not take the heat for raising their pay themselves, the charter committee rejected automatic raises tied to judges' salaries, the increases the council gives City employees or a cost of living index. Instead, this measure allows, but does not require, the Council to raise members' salaries no more than 5 percent every two years with at least a five-of-seven affirmative vote.

The committee believes that council members should take responsibility for their compensation increases. In years of budget cuts and giving City employees no or small raises, they are unlikely to give themselves big raises, if any.

By: Marcia McQuern

Eric Haley

Ben Johnson, II

Rose M. Mayes

Dorothy Bailey

NO ARGUMENT FILED AGAINST MEASURE "EE"